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# Waterways and Parks Commission

## Agenda

7:00 p.m., March 23, 2022

City of Eau Claire

North Conference Room – City Hall

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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2022.**
4. **Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda**
5. **Business Agenda Items**
  - a. Recommendation to accept a utility easement along Menomonie Street
  - b. Recommendation to grant a utility easement for Galloway Flats Development
  - c. Recommendation of encroachments within Various City Parks.
6. **Discussion and Direction**
  - a. Future Agenda Items
  - b. Announcements
    - a. High Bridge Repair Progress Update
7. **Adjournment**

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Ellen Faulkner, Chairperson  
c: News Media

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*Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in accessible location or format must contact the ADA Coordinator for the City of Eau Claire, at 839-4921 or at 203 South Farwell Street by 2:00 PM the Monday prior to the meeting so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request."*

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# Waterways and Parks Commission

## Minutes

February 23, 2022

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1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:02pm by Steve Plaza
2. Roll Call
  - a. Members Present: Charlotte Hudgins, Kirk Dahl, Gina Keenan, Ellen Faulkner, Megan Holmes, Jessica Schoen, Meredith Ball, Kate Beaton, and John Lor
  - b. Members Absent: Christopher Johnson, Joe Maurer
  - c. Staff Present: Steve Plaza, Carson Coffield, Ryan Petrie, and Christien Huppert
3. Reading and approval of minutes of the past meeting, January 26, 2022.
  - a. Motion to approve by Meredith Ball. Motion seconded by John Lor. All Commissioners present voted in favor. Minutes approved as submitted.
4. Open Public Comment Period for Items that do not appear on this Agenda
5. a. Business Agenda items
  - i. Selection of Commission Chairperson
    - i. Ellen Faulkner vacated her secretary position and volunteered to be Chairperson. Megan Holmes was selected as secretary. Jessica Schoen made a motion to approve. Kate Beaton seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
  - b. Recommendation to approve Cannery Park Conceptual Plan
    - i. Christien Huppert presented various diagrams that explained the land transfer that would be necessary for a section of the Cannery Park conceptual plan. Christien explained the right-of-way dedication will be used for additional parking that will support park development. The land that is being transferred will be part of the northern part of the Cannery Park plan. Christien explained that there will be a trail connection from Walnut Street to the Chippewa River Trail. Christien explained that the RDA would also transfer additional land to the City of Eau Claire. Kirk Dahl asked whether there would be any financial transaction regarding these transfers. Christien Huppert explained the only financial piece involved will be grading the proposed trail. Steve Plaza explained that the proposed right-of-way dedication in this case is essentially an easement, which could potentially be used for a future sidewalk development.
      - i. Kate Beaton made a motion to approve the recommendation to accept the right-of-way land dedication and land transfers in the Cannery District.  
John Lor seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
6. Discussion and Direction
  - a. Steve Plaza explained that at the next meeting, there will hopefully be a three-dimensional diagram of the conceptual plan of the Cannery District Park.
  - a. Announcements
    - a. The next scheduled meeting for the Waterways and Parks Commission will be on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

b. Director's Report (Information only)

- a. Steve Plaza shared the conceptual layout of the proposed Boyd Park Skatepark. This graph highlighted both the actual skatepark area as well as the various buffer zones surrounding the park. Steve Plaza also explained that the moving of the playground will slightly impact the size of ice-skating rink but not significantly.

**7.** Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn by Kate Beaton, seconded by Commissioner Gina Keenan. All Commissioners present voted in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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**MEMORANDUM****FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

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*Date: March 16, 2022*

*To: Waterways and Parks Commission*

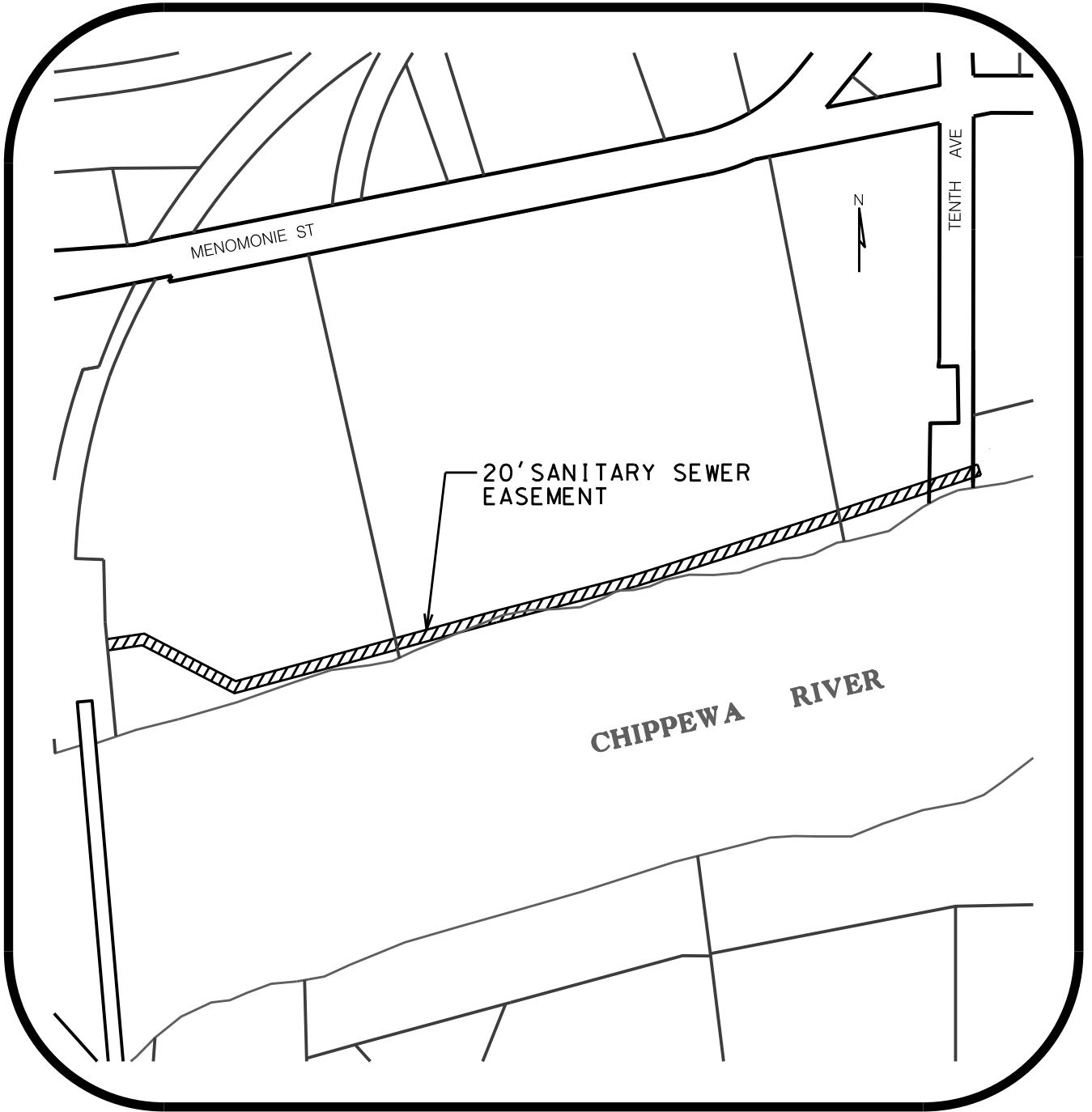
*From: Kristine Basom, Budget Analyst*

*Subject: Acceptance of a utility easement along Menomonie Street*

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The Sonnentag building location was located too close to the existing sanitary sewer utility. The sanitary sewer utility was relocated and a new easement for the utility is needed. The easement location runs through 1111 Menomonie Street, 1061 Menomonie Street and 1001 Menomonie Street.

Please place this item for review and recommendation to City Council on the March 23rd Waterways and Parks Commission agenda.



SONNATAG PROJECT  
20' SANITARY SEWER EASEMENT

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**MEMORANDUM****FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

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*Date: March 16, 2022*

*To: Waterways and Parks Commission*

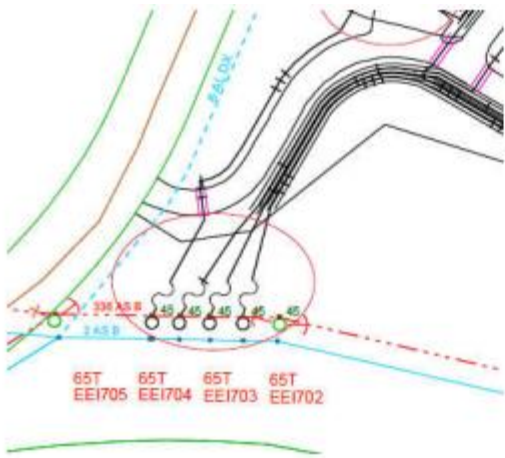
*From: Kristine Basom, Budget Analyst*

*Subject: Granting a utility easement for the Galloway Flats Development*

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Xcel Energy has requested an electrical easement from the City of Eau Claire, (parcel 10-1161-H; 0 Galloway Street) for bringing power to the new Galloway Flats development. Xcel needs 4 new poles set in line in the existing overhead corridor. Everything outside of the overhead corridor will be underground.

Please place this item for review and recommendation to City Council on the March 23rd Waterways and Parks Commission agenda.





## High Bridge Reopening Ribbon Cutting

Please join us as we celebrate the reopening of the historic High Bridge with a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 11 a.m., at the west entrance of the High Bridge, near First Street.

The historic High Bridge, which serves as a scenic pedestrian trail crossing the Chippewa River, was initially closed to the public on June 21, 2021 after a tree limb damaged a railing during a storm. Over the following days, additional changes in the condition of the bridge were observed, making repair an urgent situation.

In July of 2021 the Eau Claire City Council unanimously approved a resolution authorizing Interim City Manager Dave Solberg to enter into an emergency agreement for repair of the High Bridge. The resolution was introduced to the Council by Leah Ness, Interim Engineering Director for the City. Kraemer North America, Haas Construction, and Ayres Associates immediately began work to stabilize and save the bridge.

The first railroad bridge in that spot was built in 1872, the year Eau Claire officially became a City. However, the original wooden deck truss bridge couldn't sustain the amount of traffic seen by our growing city and, in 1880, work began on the High Bridge as we know her today. The bridge is considered to be of national importance – its main truss spans are believed to be the only remaining example of quintuple intersection lattice deck trusses in the country. Eau Claire has become known as the City of Bridges, and the City places great value on them, not only as a part of our living history and culture, but as a daily part of people's leisure, health, and transportation plans.

Media questions can be directed to Interim Engineering Director Leah Ness at 715-839-4934.

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